

Speech delivered on the occasion of the Graduation  
Exercises at the Alabang School of Military  
Police Command on 22 May 1945.

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General Lester, members of the graduating class:

It is a source of satisfaction for me to be with you on this occasion. Six weeks ago, I had the honor to witness the opening of this training course. To-day, I can see that your efforts have been duly rewarded. Your graduation is a testimony of your efficiency in your studies. Allow me to extend to you my hearty congratulations.

The certificate of graduation should not only show that you have successfully completed the prescribed course, but it should also be your pledge that you are ready to assume the important duties and high responsibilities of the service.

During the past six weeks, you have learned the necessity for discipline of mind, of body and of character. You have been taught the value of efficiency, loyalty and devotion to duty, the three magnificent pillars on which any military organization rests. In the years to come, as officers and men of the Military Police Command, you will have before you a career of opportunity for splendid service to our country. The responsibilities of your work will challenge the best that is in you. From now on, your actions and even your thoughts will be subordinated to the exigencies of military discipline. Bear in mind that any misbehaviour will be a discredit not only to you as an individual, but to your organization as well.

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Be industrious. In military service as in all other professions, officers and men take standing according to their efficiency and merit. Efficiency requires time, labor and perseverance. Do not deteriorate. Try your best to be always correct in your manners and clean in your attire.

Remember that in military life, silence is golden. Do not get into the habit of discussing with outsiders matters affecting your work. The most deadly instrument of destruction is the human tongue. It is even more dangerous than your rifles. While each gun works alone, each loaded tongue has a hundred accomplices. The havoc of gun is visible at once. The full evil of the tongue cannot be seen and should not be underestimated.

Be careful and moderate in the use of alcoholic beverages. Excessive drinking almost invariably leads to trouble and often ruin. If you feel like taking a drink, do so but do not go so far as to forget yourselves. Reckless drinking is neither manly, military nor gentlemanly. Do not touch a drop of liquor when on or about to enter upon any duty.

Do not fall under the claws of that dangerous monster known as gambling. While gambling among officers and among enlisted men for small amounts of money may look entirely innocent, yet it tends to develop in their minds the love for that vice and the desire to stake larger sums of money. You will soon find yourselves heavily in debt and your enemies will take advantage of it to tempt you with bribes.



In the performance of your duties, you will come in contact with people of different classes, rich and poor as well as intelligent and ignorant. You must endeavour to treat them with kindness and equanimity. Remember that your primary duty will be to maintain peace and order. Try to understand the people of the region in which you will be stationed and learn their customs and habits. Try to obtain their willing and unhesitating cooperation. Cultivate tact, patience and gentlemanliness.

I bid you all godspeed and wish you success. Success, however, will not come to you unless you strive to attain it. Success cannot be inherited. It is personal and must be attained through sacrifice and perseverance. Your success of to-morrow depends upon how successful you are to-day. Thoroughness is the secret of success. The future is an absorbing subject of curiosity to the human being, but individual destiny is rarely revealed, notwithstanding fortunetellers, except by the unfolding of time.

You are the pioneers of the Military Police Command, an organization destined to replace the old Philippine Constabulary. Try to make it a strong and respected organization and march forward into the future with a determination to maintain its high standards to win public admiration and confidence.

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